DOE NEWS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS • WASHINGTON, DC 20585

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2002

Solar Decathlon Engineering Design Results Announced

Distinguished Panel Picks University of Colorado and Crowder College

WASHINGTON, DC – The University of Colorado at Boulder and Crowder College tied for first place in the Engineering Design results announced today at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Solar Decathlon competition on the National Mall in Washington, DC, today. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University took the second highest number of points and the University of Maryland placed third.

The Solar Decathlon runs through October 5. With today's contest results, and results from ongoing contests, the University of Colorado at Boulder remains in first, Auburn University holds onto second, and the University of Maryland remains in third.

The Engineering Design panel includes engineers prominent in the field of buildings and building systems: Hunter Fanney with the National Institute of Standards and Technology; Dr. Richard Hayter with Kansas City State University; and Ron Judkoff, Director of the Center for Buildings and Thermal Systems at DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Engineering Design was worth a possible 120 points and includes the judges' determination of excellence in the design of heating and air conditioning systems, refrigeration, lighting and the setup and operation of a home-based business. Competing teams are being judged continuously on several aspects of the performance of their houses. The total points possible for the ten contests in the Solar Decathlon is 1,100 points.

The Solar Decathlon Village is open to the public through Oct. 6. Exhibits with information on each team's home, the contest and renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are adjacent to the Solar Decathlon village on the Mall between 4th Street and 7th Street and between the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and the west building of the National Gallery of Art.

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R-02-209 (NR-4202)

For the Solar Decathlon, the solar decathletes had to figure ways to harness the power of the sun to supply all the energy for an entire household, including a home-based business, along with the transportation needs of the household and business. Each house, limited to roughly 500 square feet for purposes of the competition, is being judged on 10 criteria to determine which most efficiently employs solar energy for heating, cooling, hot water, lighting, appliances, computers and charging an electric car.

Sponsors of the Solar Decathlon, in addition to the DOE, include BP Solar, The Home Depot, EDS, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

For more on the Solar Decathlon, see http://www.solardecathlon.org

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